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Kohler Ready To Take Word To Khrushchev

President Seen
Pressing Russia
For Timetable

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ambassador Roy D. Kohler conferred with President Kennedy and Secretary of State Rusk today in preparation for his return to Moscow, where he may take up the continued presence of Russian military forces in Cuba.

The meeting followed a report last night that Mr. Kennedy told a Latin American diplomat two days ago he hoped the problem of Soviet troops in Cuba would be solved by the time he leaves for Costa Rica in mid-March.

High officials, asked about this, said today that Mr. Kennedy had not set any deadline for a showdown on the issue. They said he still hopes Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev will fulfill his promise to remove the troops.

Mr. Kohler went into the President's office shortly before 11 a.m. for a conference, which was not on the previously announced schedule. Mr. Rusk arrived a few minutes later for a scheduled 11 a.m. talk with the President, and the three men met together, White House officials reported.

Ready to Leave

State Department informants said Mr. Kohler would be returning to his post in the Soviet capital this week end.

He arrived in Washington for consultation 10 days ago. He said at the time he believed Mr. Khrushchev would like to reach some accommodation with the United States, perhaps on nuclear weapons test-ban treaty.

The atmosphere is a little less hopeful now than it was at the time Mr. Kohler talked with reporters in New York on his way to Washington.

Nuclear test-ban discussions in New York among the United States, Russia and Britain have been broken off by the Russians pending a meeting of the three nations in Geneva. The presence of Russian troops in Cuba is a major point of contention in the United States-Soviet negotiations.

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President Kennedy told his news conference this week that he has seen a report that Mr. Khrushchev has said he would get the troops out of Cuba "in due course."

Timing a Factor

Mr. Kennedy now wants to find out what timing Mr. Khrushchev has in mind and to press for the fastest possible removal. He is considering sending a letter on the subject to Mr. Khrushchev.

Mr. Kohler's return provides an opportunity for delivery of a formal message or for a report to Mr. Khrushchev informally, of Mr. Kennedy's views in the growing wave of antagonism in the United States to the continued stationing of Soviet forces in Cuba.

Mr. Khrushchev was quoted in Moscow today as having told newspaper magnate Roy Thomson that the Soviet troops are in Cuba only to instruct Cubans in advanced weapons. He was reported to have said in an interview that there need be no concern about a Russian arms buildup.

United States diplomatic sources said yesterday that Mr. Kennedy expressed his hope for removal of the forces by mid-March during a White House meeting Thursday with Costa Rica's Foreign Minister Daniel Oduber.

However, the sources emphasized that Mr. Kennedy did not specify or predict a deadline after which some action might be taken.

Cuba Chief Topic

United States and Latin American diplomats discounted one report which quoted the President as telling an unidentified Latin American diplomat on Thursday that he is confident Soviet troops will be off the island by March and that if they are not he plans to "take action" with other nations. United States sources

said Mr. Kennedy told Mr. Oduber that he hopes for resolution of the Cuban situation before he visits Costa Rica, March 18 to 20.

The President plans to meet then with the presidents of the Middle American republics.

Following his talk with Mr. Oduber, Mr. Kennedy said that "what to do about the mess in Cuba" will be a major topic of the Costa Rica conference.

"The Soviet military penetration in Cuba, and thus into the Americas, is something that, in the instance of the six countries of Mid-America, must be discussed at the San Jose meeting," Mr. Oduber said.

The question of Soviet power in Cuba was discussed again yesterday by Senator Keating and John A. McCone, director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Proposals

Mr. McCone journeyed to the New York Republican's Capitol Hill office to get more information from Senator Keating on the situation and his recommendations on what to do about it.

Neither Senator Keating nor Mr. McCone would shed any light on details of their talk, although Senator Keating told reporters that Mr. McCone promised him that his recommendations "will be transmitted to the President today."

The additional data he supplied the CIA chief, Senator Keating said, dealt with reports of a military buildup "which I have not been able to confirm and which I have not publicly revealed."

Senator Keating has charged that the Soviet military presence is bigger and a greater threat than the administration is willing to admit.

Meanwhile, a Republican campaign official has accused President Kennedy of "acting chicken" when he should be "talking Turkey" about release of a score of United States citizens from Cuban prisons.

Representative Wilson of California, chairman of the Republican Congressional Campaign Committee, made the charge in a statement on reports of new ransom demands for the release of the prisoners.

James B. Donovan, New York attorney who negotiated release of the 1,113 Cuban prisoners taken in the Bay of Pigs invasion attempt, has been in Cuba seeking release of Americans held prisoner there. Mr. Donovan said in New York on Thursday he would report Mr. Castro's demands to the American Red Cross in Washington tomorrow.

Mr. Wilson's statement did not indicate what he thought Kennedy could or should do to obtain release of the prisoners, but he asked:

"Have we really reached the stage in our world dealings where we have to meekly ask a two-bit dictator what he wants in the way of tribute to release Americans whom he is